United Nations A/61/6 (Prog. 3)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 June 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Item 117 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 3
Disarmament

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* A/61/50 and Corr.1.

06-37895 (E) 260606

Overall orientation

3.1 General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control remains the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament. The main responsibilities for disarmament lie with Member States. The United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in supporting Member States in this area.

3.2 The mandate for the programme derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions in the field of disarmament, including the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). The programme is also guided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and takes into account relevant resolutions of the Security Council dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. Weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be of primary concern to the Organization in terms of non-proliferation efforts as well as disarmament and arms control measures. Conventional weapons, especially with regard to major weapons systems, small arms and light weapons and landmines, have continued to receive increased attention from the international community.

3.3 Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The Department's strategy in meeting the programme's objectives is designed around five subprogrammes and is based on its role in and responsibility for facilitating and encouraging, as appropriate, disarmament and non-proliferation measures at all levels. The Department will continue to assist Member States in promoting, strengthening and consolidating multilaterally negotiated principles and norms in all areas of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. It will support efforts of Member States in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects in order to help maintain international peace and security and contribute to global efforts against terrorism. The Department will continue to promote and facilitate efforts for further implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as practical disarmament measures. It will promote transparency, based on the principle of undiminished security for all, and confidence-building measures in the field of disarmament. Through its regional centres for peace and disarmament, the Department will assist Member States in promoting regional approaches to disarmament, non-proliferation in all its aspects and regional and international peace and security. It will also continue to contribute to efforts to enhance disarmament expertise in Member States, particularly in developing countries.

3.4 The Department will seek to achieve the objectives of the programme by facilitating the process of multilateral deliberation and negotiation. This will include providing substantive organizational support to the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies, review conferences and other meetings of parties to multilateral disarmament agreements, as well as to expert groups mandated by the General Assembly. This will also include monitoring and assessing current and future trends in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation in all its aspects and international security.

3.5 The Department will continue to be a source of impartial and factual information on disarmament and security-related matters for Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations and will expand its educational outreach programmes. Training and advisory services will continue to be provided, through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, to Member States, in particular developing countries, to enable them to enhance their expertise in disarmament, so that they may participate more effectively in international deliberating and negotiating forums. The Department will also assist Member States in increasing understanding of the relationship between disarmament and development.

3.6 Gender mainstreaming will continue to be an integral part of the activities of the programme through the implementation of a gender plan of action aimed at raising awareness and increasing commitment to and capacity for gender mainstreaming in disarmament affairs.

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament

Objective of the Organization: To promote and support negotiations on disarmament, to contribute to efforts to prevent arms proliferation and to support Member States in the implementation of relevant agreements and instruments.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective facilitation of the process of negotiation and deliberation in the Conference on Disarmament and in conferences and meetings of States parties to various multilateral agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects	(a) Degree of satisfaction with the efficiency of organizational services and the depth of substantive support
(b) Enhanced understanding by States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations of issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects	(b) (i) Degree of satisfaction with the quality of information made available (ii) Number of requests received to organize or contribute to seminars, workshops, briefings, etc., related to the work of the Branch (iii) Number of visits to online information sources, in particular to the web pages maintained by the Branch
(c) Enhanced expertise of Member States in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme, as well as improved gender balance in the participation in the Programme	(c) (i) Increased percentage of Member States interested in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme

(ii) Increased number of alumni of the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme in the United Nations bodies, meetings and conferences dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation

(iii) Increased percentage of female participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme

Strategy

3.7 The subprogramme is implemented by the Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The objective of the subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Providing organizational and substantive support as well as sound advice on procedures and practices to the Conference on Disarmament and to conferences and meetings of States parties to various multilateral arms-limitation and disarmament agreements;

(b) Assisting Member States in consensus-building by providing timely and comprehensive political analyses and policy options;

(c) Supporting the implementation of decisions, recommendations and programmes of action adopted by the conferences and meetings of States parties to various multilateral arms-limitation and disarmament agreements;

(d) Providing specialized training in the field of arms limitation and disarmament to Member States, in particular developing countries, through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme; and promoting gender-balanced participation in the Programme;

(e) Monitoring and assessing trends in arms limitation, disarmament and non-proliferation to provide Member States and international and non-governmental organizations participating in United Nations disarmament-related conferences and meetings with timely and accurate information;

(f) Assisting Member States in capacity-building through substantive support to various disarmament-related activities, including workshops, seminars, ad hoc presentations and advisory services.

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

Objective of the Organization: To promote and support the efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects and to assist Member States, at their request, in supporting instruments and agreements related to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective facilitation of the process of negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building on disarmament issues including non-proliferation in all its aspects, and issues of universality relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons and delivery systems, by Member States, States parties and other interested States, at their request	(a) Degree of satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of organizational and substantive services provided
(b) Enhanced use by Member States of information on issues in disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects as they relate to weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons and terrorism	(b) (i) Increased number of requests to the Branch for assistance and substantive input and advice on issues related to the work of the Branch (ii) Increased number of visits (page views) to the Branch's web pages
(c) Enhanced multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects, within existing mandates, as a contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and the global efforts against terrorism	(c) Number of requests from Member States for the provision of support at events/seminars regarding implementation of obligations relating to the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery

Strategy

3.8 The subprogramme is implemented by the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch. The objective of the subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Assisting and supporting Member States in their negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building in the area of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and on their means of delivery, as well as assisting Member States, at their request, in their endeavours in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and universalization of multilateral agreements, including global efforts against terrorism;

(b) Assisting and supporting States parties and other interested States, at their request, in their efforts to achieve the full implementation and universalization of multilateral agreements related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons;

(c) Enhancing cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory

Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, as well as expanding interaction with other international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular research and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations working in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including with those implementing measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery;

(d) Monitoring and assessing current and future trends in the area of weapons of mass destruction with a view to achieving an improved capacity to provide timely and accurate information and analysis.

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Objective of the Organization: To promote greater mutual confidence among Member States in the field of conventional arms and to address the destabilizing and excessive accumulation of and illicit trafficking in and manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased international action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons	(a) Increased number of actions undertaken at the global, regional and national levels to implement the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
(b) High level of participation by Member States in United Nations instruments on confidence-building measures in military and security matters and further development of the scope of such instruments	(b) (i) Number of States participating in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (ii) Number of States participating in the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures
(c) Enhanced international dialogue to promote practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons	(c) Increased number of initiatives undertaken at the global, regional and national levels to achieve confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons

Strategy

3.9 The subprogramme is implemented by the Conventional Arms Branch. The objective of the subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Promoting and supporting the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

(b) Strengthening efforts of the United Nations system to address the challenges posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons by enhancing the effectiveness of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism;

(c) Facilitating the process of deliberation, negotiation and consensus-building in the field of conventional weapons;

(d) Promoting and supporting practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

(e) Promoting and supporting the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures;

(f) Promoting and supporting the continued operation and further development of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and facilitating progress towards universal participation;

(g) Identifying emerging issues and challenges in the field of conventional weapons and analysing their impact on international peace and security;

(h) Analysing and assessing trends and developments related to global military expenditures and the arms trade.

Subprogramme 4
Information and outreach

Objective of the Organization: To provide Member States and the public with objective, impartial and up-to-date information on disarmament activities.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased utilization and improved access to information materials of the Department	(a) (i) Record of opinions expressed by end-users on the usefulness and relevance of informational materials
	(ii) Number of visits and page views and average time of user sessions on the Department's website
	(iii) Increased number of participant hours in briefings given on disarmament
(b) Better preparedness of States to undertake multilateral deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament	(b) Increased delivery of factual and objective information to Member States through electronic means regarding various aspects of disarmament
(c) Implementation of the recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education	(c) Number of activities at the national, regional and global levels implementing the recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

Strategy

3.10 The subprogramme is implemented by the Information and Outreach Branch. The objective of the subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Continuing to carry out information and outreach activities covering all aspects of disarmament in cooperation with other relevant departments within the United Nations Secretariat, notably the Department of Public Information;

(b) Enhancing the work of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(c) Devoting special focus to the promotion and implementation of the recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education with relevant United Nations offices, disarmament-related international organizations and civil society organizations, especially non-governmental and academic organizations;

(d) Increasing collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

(e) Increasingly exploiting the electronic medium for dissemination and exchange of information, in particular by developing specialized web pages for end-users, including delegations, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and institutions; specialized agencies of the United Nations system; researchers and educators; civil society, especially representatives of non-governmental organizations; the media; and the general public;

(f) Facilitating the participation of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, in disarmament-related conferences and meetings in accordance with established rules of procedure, including in terms of access to meetings, documentation, organization of oral presentations, holding of special events and mounting of exhibits.

Subprogramme 5
Regional disarmament

Objective of the Organization: To promote and enhance international efforts towards global disarmament and international peace and security through the support and promotion of regional disarmament efforts and initiatives using approaches freely arrived at among the States of the region and taking into account the legitimate requirements of States for self-defence and the specific characteristics of each region.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased opportunities for regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration among States and regional and subregional organizations in matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and regional and international peace and security	(a) Number of activities (regional consultations, regional symposiums, capacity-building workshops/training activities, publications, advocacy and outreach activities related to universalization of treaties and full implementation of resolutions) undertaken at the national, subregional and regional levels
(b) Greater cooperation among national, regional and subregional entities within each region and subregion in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and regional and international peace and security	(b) (i) Number of national, regional and subregional entities participating in events organized by the Regional Disarmament Branch

	(ii) Number of collaborative measures implemented by regional, subregional and national entities
(c) Enhanced capacity of national, subregional and regional entities in implementing disarmament, non-proliferation and regional and international peace and security measures	(c) Number of programmes formulated by national, subregional and regional entities to implement disarmament, non-proliferation and regional and international peace and security measures

Strategy

3.11 The subprogramme is implemented by the Regional Disarmament Branch, comprising the Regional Activities Unit, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective of the subprogramme will be pursued through:

(a) Promoting regional cooperation among States and regional and subregional organizations in matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and regional and international peace and security;

(b) Promoting understanding of regional and subregional disarmament;

(c) Providing advice, information and assistance to Member States, at their request, as well as to regional organizations and arrangements and non-governmental organizations;

(d) Supporting national, regional and subregional implementation of existing multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation instruments and resolutions;

(e) Promoting advocacy and supporting capacity-building in all areas of disarmament at the regional and subregional levels;

(f) Enhancing the capacity of national, subregional and regional entities in the implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and regional and international peace and security measures through hands-on assistance to entities at their request.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

S-10/2	Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly
38/183 O	Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies
42/38 C	Notification of nuclear tests
44/116 O	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof

47/54 G	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session
57/69	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia
58/50	Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons
59/59	Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe
59/60	Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification
59/67	Missiles
59/70	Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol
59/71	Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament
59/73	Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status
59/76	A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons
59/81	The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
59/82	Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures
59/93	United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education
59/95	Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee
59/97	United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services
59/103	United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
60/44	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures
60/45	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
60/46	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

60/48	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace
60/49	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty)
60/50	Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
60/51	Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament
60/52	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East
60/53	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
60/54	Prevention of an arms race in outer space
60/55	Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements
60/56	Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments
60/57	Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes
60/58	Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas
60/59	Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation
60/60	Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control
60/61	Relationship between disarmament and development
60/62	The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation
60/63	Regional disarmament
60/64	Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context
60/65	Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons
60/66	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
60/67	Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

60/68	Addressing the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation
60/69	National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology
60/70	Nuclear disarmament
60/71	Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them
60/72	Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed in the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
60/73	Preventing the risk of radiological terrorism
60/74	Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus
60/75	Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels
60/76	Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*
60/77	Prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence system
60/78	Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction
60/79	Reducing nuclear danger
60/80	Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction
60/81	The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects
60/82	Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms
60/83	United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament
60/84	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
60/85	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
60/86	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

60/87	Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa
60/88	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons
60/89	Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
60/90	Report of the Conference on Disarmament
60/91	Report of the Disarmament Commission
60/92	The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East
60/93	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
60/94	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
60/95	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
60/96	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
60/226	Transparency in armaments

General Assembly decisions

54/418	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
60/514	Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification
60/519	International instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons

Security Council resolutions

1325 (2000)	Women and peace and security
1540 (2004)	Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
1673 (2006)	Extended mandate for the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction